

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of Industrial Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN ALABAMA DROPS TO 3.6 PERCENT**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, March 27, 2006. . . . . The Alabama unemployment rate decreased to 3.6 percent in February compared to 3.8 percent the previous month. The state's latest jobless figure represents over 3,000 fewer unemployed Alabamians than in January.

"February's 3.6 percent unemployment rate is well below the 4.3 percent recorded a year ago," says Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. "In addition, the number of unemployed persons is nearly 13,000 less than last year."

The comparable national unemployment rate for February is 4.8 percent, a slight increase from the 4.7 percent national rate in January.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 48,800 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+10,300), followed by manufacturing (+9,400); leisure and hospitality (+6,900); construction (+6,000); educational and health services (+5,700); government (+4,800); trade (wholesale and retail) transportation and utilities; and financial activities (+1,300).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" and follow prompts.